Oral presentations

Successful Treatment of Immune-mediated Haemolytic Anaemia (IMHA) in a Pet Rabbit

Sarah Brown

Holly House Veterinary Hospital, Leeds, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

To treat a one year-old male neutered dwarf rabbit presented with weight loss and lethargy. Clinical examination was unremarkable other than poor body condition, mucous membrane pallor and a palpable abdominal mass.

METHODS

Bloodwork showed a packed cell volume (PCV) of 10% and a severe regenerative anaemia with red cells showing marked polychromasia, anisocytosis and poikilocytosis. Weak red cell agglutinates and spherocytes were present.

Blood biochemistry, plus abdominal and thoracic radiography and ultrasonography were unremarkable

other than a small mid-abdominal mass identified on ultrasonography – potentially an enlarged lymph node. Fine needle aspirate cytology suggested marked suppurative inflammation, although no bacteria were evident.

Given the severe regenerative anaemia, presence of spherocytes and spontaneous autoagglutinates and lack of evidence of internal haemorrhage, a provisional diagnosis of IMHA was made, potentially secondary to a suppurative inflammatory process.

RESULTS

Oral prednisolone (immunosuppressive dose starting at 2mg/kg bid and gradually tapered) was started, along with a two week course of daily penicillin-streptomycin injections. The rabbit's demeanour and pallor improved remarkably with serial increases in PCV to 33% five weeks later (red cells normocytic and normochromic). The rabbit continued to do well and the prednisolone was stopped nine weeks after starting therapy (PCV = 36%). The abdominal mass was no longer palpable and further investigations were declined. There has been no recurrence of signs three years later.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

IMHA in rabbits is rare, with few cases in the literature. This case illustrates a good response to treatment with prednisolone, despite the concerns of steroid use in this species.

Bacterial isolation and antibiotic susceptibility testing from abscess, skin, and wound samples from rabbits

Rachel E. Marschang¹, Mareike Schwab², Elisabeth Müller¹, Petra Stumpf²

¹ Laboklin GmbH & Co. KG, Bad Kissingen, Germany

² Kleintierpraxis am Rankbach, Renningen-Malmsheim, Germany

OBJECTIVES

Compare results of aerobic bacterial isolation and susceptibility testing from skin and wound (SW) and abscess (A) samples from rabbits. Evaluate differences and possible antibiotic treatments.

METHODS

Swabs from SW (n = 213) and swabs from A (n = 347) from pet rabbits presented to veterinary practices between 2016 and 2018 were submitted for aerobic bacteriological

culture and antibiotic sensitivity testing. Results were evaluated and compared in a retrospective study.

RESULTS

A total of 253 isolates, including 26 different bacterial species, were obtained from SW and 275 bacteria, including 29 different bacterial species, were isolated from A. The most frequently detected isolates were *Staphylococcus* species (SW: 34.4%; 87 of 253 isolates; A: 22.9%; 63 of 275 isolates), followed by *Pseudomonas* species for SW (12.3%; 31 of 253 isolates) and *Pasteurella* species for A (13%; 36 of 275 isolates). *Staphylococcus* sp. and *Pasteurella* sp. showed good susceptibility to most tested antibiotics while *Pseudomonas* sp. were resistant to most tested antibiotics. There was no statistically significant difference in antibiotic susceptibility between bacteria in SW and bacteria in A ($t = -0.276032$, $p = 0.784298$).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Bacterial infections can be life threatening in rabbits, and abscesses are seen regularly and often require systemic antibiotic treatment. Frequency of obtained isolates can help to choose a first choice antibiotic prior to/without antibiotic testing. Antibiotic stewardship to minimize antibiotic use and to optimize choice of substance is based on regular evaluation of bacterial flora and antibiotic susceptibility of isolated bacteria.